

Advisory Committee on Trees - March 15, 2021

Present via Zoom. Brian Townsend (Assistant Director Parks and Public Works and staff liaison), Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Robert Trumbule (member).
Call to order 7 PM

Review and correct February 23, 2021 minutes. Approved with corrections.

Old Business

1 – MAGLEV Task Force, Charles Jackman.

Charles has represented ACT at two meetings. The first, a City Council Work Session about the MAGLEV project held on March 3, and the second, an organizational meeting of the MAGLEV task force on March 10. Goals of the task force were discussed at this meeting. The next meeting of the MAGLEV task force is set for Wednesday, March 24. The City of Greenbelt has taken a stand against the MAGLEV and has a legal representative. Bob Trumbule said he thinks the city should base opposition to the MAGLEV on its environmental impact. The MAGLEV environmental impact document consists of over 600 pages. Bob recalled his experience about a previous issue (the Atlantic Coast Oil Pipeline) several years ago. When many communities raised issues and threatened to take the matter to court, the backers gave up. Charles will continue to attend task force meetings.

2- Arbor Day, Brian Townsend

Brian explained that the city will do a tree planting at the Youth Center. Brian showed a map of the proposed trees. The trees would have colorful spring flowers (red buds,, *Cercis canadensis*) and fall leaf color. Bob suggested using the Black Tupelo cultivar 'Wildfire' (aka Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*) instead of the Shantung maple which is hard to find. Bob likes the Black Tupelo because it is native, it would provide high canopy, shade, fruit in summer for wildlife, and brilliant fall color. Brian is interested in *Ginkgo* 'Golden Globe'. Bob commented that he has seen specimens of the *Ginkgo* 'Golden Globe' and it tends to have a very short fall color display (about one week) as the leaves rapidly drop and the fall color is a carpet on the ground. Brian is suggesting seven trees (4 red buds and 3 black tupelos). The event will be on Saturday, April 10 from 10 to 11:30 AM. There will be no volunteers or children because of the Corona virus pandemic. Each tree will be placed in the pre-dug hole so ACT members and City Council will only fill the holes with soil and mulch.

Next City Council meeting is March 22. Brian will attend. ACT is welcome to attend also. There will be a Proclamation for the Arbor Day event. It is a virtual meeting, sign in at 8PM. Charles suggested we plan an 'in person' event for the fall.

New Business

1 – Tree Planting planned.

Brian said that two London Plane trees will be planted at Roosevelt Center to replace two which died.

PEPCO will also be planting 20 to 25 replacement trees (tree lilac, *Syringa amurensis japonica*) along Ivy Lane where Bradford pears were removed and in other areas where trees were removed because they were too close to power lines.

2 – Walking meeting with Leann Irwin

Leann wants to do a meeting on March 27 or 28 to look at trees in the Forest Preserve. Charles suggested Saturday, March 27. Meet at Northway at 1PM. The walk should take about 2 hours.

Adjourn 8:30 PM Next meeting April 20.